

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated June 15, 2004, claims are amended. Claims 1-22 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

**REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103**

I. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stephenson (USPN 5,757,388), for the reasons substantially of record.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephenson in view of Amoni et al. (USPN 5,884,086), for the reasons substantially of record.

Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephenson in view of Amoni et al. and Yokoyama (USPN 5,694,226), for the reasons substantially of record.

Claims 8, 9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephenson in view of Yokoyama, for the reasons substantially of record.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephenson in view of Yokoyama and Kawai et al. (USPN 5,805,780), for the reasons substantially of record.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephenson in view of Yokoyama and further in view of *In re Larson*, 340 F.2d 965, 968, 144 USPQ 347, 349 (CCPA 1965) and Yokoyama (USPN 5,694,226), for the reasons substantially of record.

Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephenson in view of Amoni et al. and Kawai et al., for the reasons substantially of record.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephenson in view of Amoni et al., Kawai et al. and Meese et al. (USPN 4,532,418) and further in view of *In re Larson*, 340 F.2d 965, 968, 144 USPQ 347, 349 (CCPA 1965), for the reasons substantially of record.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephenson in view of Amoni et al. and Kawai et al. and further in view of *In re Larson*, 340 F.2d 965, 968, 144 USPQ 347, 349 (CCPA 1965), for the reasons substantially of record.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephenson in view of Amoni et al., Kawai et al. and Meese et al., and further in view of *In re Larson*, 340 F.2d 965, 968, 144 USPQ 347, 349 (CCPA 1965), for the reasons substantially of record.

Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephenson in view of Amoni et al., Kawai et al. and Meese et al., for the reasons substantially of record.

The rejection of claims 17 and 20-22 is respectfully traversed.

The invention recited in dependent claim 17 and independent claims 20 and 21 includes a collecting *a charge for an amount of power that has been supplied to the external device*. The Examiner relies upon Meese et al. as disclosing collecting a charge for an amount of power referring to column 1, lines 39-42.

Stephenson is directed to an electric camera and integral ink jet printer, Amoni et al. is directed to a data processing system, such as a personal computer, wherein non-standard, or auxiliary voltage and current may be supplied to an attached peripheral device along with standard USP power and signaling, and Kawai et al. is directed to a photographing box arranged to reduce a time taken from photographing an object to printing the image of the object.

However, Meese et al. relates to *a charging meter and method for electric vehicles*, permitting charging of an electric vehicle at a parking location in response to use of a charge card and storing charging and parking information for subsequent retrieval to facilitate billing to the owner of the charge card. In contrast, the present invention is directed to an image forming apparatus that includes a charge collecting unit for collecting a charge for an amount of power that has been supplied to an external device connected to the image forming apparatus.

Clearly, Meese et al. is directed to a nonanalogous art as that of the other applied references, as well as that of the claimed invention. *In re Clay*, 966 F.2d 656, 23 USPQ2d 1058 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *Ex parte Dussaud*, 7 USPQ2d 1818 (BPAI 1988). Accordingly, it cannot be said that one having ordinary skill in the relevant art would have been charged with knowledge of Meese et al.. Thus, the requisite motivation required to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness is nonexistent.

Thus, dependent claim 17, independent claims 20 and 21, as well claim 22 depending from claim 21, are patentable over Stephenson, considered alone or in combination with Amoni et al., Kawai et al. and Meese et al. To expedite prosecution, independent claim 15 is amended to include the limitation(s) of claim 17, now cancelled. Thus, independent claims 20 and 21, amended independent claim 15, as well as dependent claims 16, 18, 19 and 22, are patentable over the applied prior art references and their allowance is respectfully solicited.

To further expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 is amended to delineate that:

... the detecting unit including

a connector configured to receive a plug of a cable attached to the external device, and

an interface controller connected to the connector, the interface controller outputting a first logical level signal when the plug is inserted into the connector and outputting a second logical level signal when the plug is not inserted into the connector;

a printing unit; and  
a control unit for controlling, in response to the first logical level signal output by the interface controller, the printing unit so as to prepare for image forming according to the image data from the external device.

None of the applied prior art references discloses or suggests the features now recited in amended claim 1, and in particular, an interface controller that output a first logical level signal when the plug is inserted into the connector and outputting a second logical level signal when the plug is not inserted into the connector. Independent claims 2, 8 and 11 are amended to recite similar features. Thus, amended independent claims 1, 2, 8, 11, as well as dependent claims 3-7, 9, 10 and 12-14, are patentable over the applied prior art references and their allowance is respectfully solicited.

## **CONCLUSION**

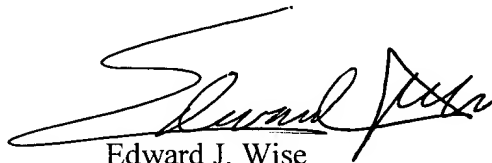
Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, overcomes the rejection of record and is in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

09/585,339

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward J. Wise', is written over a horizontal line.

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